

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: CCMS, SENV

SUBJECT: CCMS: SPRING 1976 PLENARY - ITALIAN PRESENTATION TO  
ROUNDTABLE

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO EPA FOR F. ALLEN HARRIS

ITALIAN NATO DEL HAS JUST CIRCULATED SUMMARY TEXT (BELOW)  
OF ITALIAN PRESENTATION TO CCMS PLENARY ROUNDTABLE, WHICH  
WILL BE MADE BY ITALIAN CCMS DEL MEMBER CORTELLESA.

BEGIN TEXT:

SUMMARY OF THE ITALIAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION AT  
THE CCMS SPRING PLENARY.

G. CORGELLESA, L. DE ANNA - CABINET OF THE MINISTER FOR  
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH.

THE MAIN TOPIC OF THE ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION DEALS WITH THE  
ASSESSMENT OF POLLUTION HAZARDS AND THE DETERMINATION OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS.

AS FAR AS THESE SUBJECTS ARE CONCERNED, IT IS NECESSARY  
TO STATE, AT THE VERY FIRST, THAT ITALY HAS CONTRIBUTED, AS  
THE OTHER MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY,  
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TO THE PREPARATION OF DIRECTIVES IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD,  
AIMED TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF POLLUTION AND OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
DEGRADATION.

MANY OF THESE EEC DIRECTIVES ARE ALREADY PART OF THE

LEGISLATIONS AND REGULATIONS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE COMMUNITY AND OTHERS ARE EITHER READY FOR FINAL APPROVAL OR AT A LATE STAGE OF PREPARATION FOR THE FINAL APPROVAL.

AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ITALY IS THUS READY TO DISCUSS THE BASIC PRINCIPLES UNDERLAYING THE APPROACH TO POLLUTION CONTROL ADOPTED BY THE AUTHORITIES.

IN PARTICULAR IT IS POSSIBLE TO GIVE THE ITALIAN POSITION, IN SHORT, AS FOLLOWS:

A) SCIENTIFIC, MEDICAL, ENGINEERING AND ECONOMICAL EVIDENCE IS USED IN TAKING DECISIONS, WITH THE EMPHASIS ON BIOMEDICAL SIDE OF THE DATA;

B) ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS ARE PRESCRIBED IN A DIFFERENTIATED WAY, OWING TO THE DIFFERENT STAGE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION IN ITALY.

STANDARDS ARE USED FOR AIR POLLUTION AND FOR RADIO-ACTIVE POLLUTION (AIR, WATER, GROUND CONTAMINATION EITHER IN FACTORIES OR IN ANY ENVIRONMENT FOR WATER THERE ARE STANDARDS SO FAR IN SOME REGIONS OF ITALY. THESE STANDARDS ARE BASED ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC DATA.

C) THE GENERAL PHILOSOPHY ADOPTED IS THAT, AS A TENDANCE, POLLUTION SHOULD BE KEPT AS LOW AS POSSIBLE GOING TO ZERO POLLUTION IN THE FUTURE. AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THIS CHOICE THE ECONOMICAL FACTORS PLAY A ROLE AS TEMPORARY CONSTRAINTS TO THE DUE COURSE TO ZERO POLLUTION. OF COURSE THE SPEED TO APPROACH ZERO POLLUTION HAS TO BE MORE MARKED FOR THE MORE DANGEROUS POLLUTANTS DEFINED AS THOSE CHARACTERIZED BY PERSISTENCE, LOW OR ZERO BIODEGRADABILITY, ACCUMULATION ETC.

D) THE SCIENTIFIC AND OTHER DATA ARE WIDELY DEBATED AT SCIENTIFIC LEVEL WITHIN ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS. PUBLIC OPINION PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE AND THE PROCESS OF POPULAR PARTICIPATION HAS BEEN VERY IMPORTANT ESPECIALLY IN RECENT YEARS.

AS A FINAL CONCLUSION, IT IS POSSIBLE TO NOTE THAT THE INITIATIVE OF THE MINISTER FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY IN 1972 WITH THE URBINO CONFERENCE ON THE STATUS OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN ITALY HAS BEEN A REAL TURNING POINT FOR THE SCIENTIFIC AND PUBLIC OPINION, PROMPTING A RENEWED ACTION AT ALL LEVELS.  
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END TEXT.STRAUSZ-HUPE

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